

JODI UPDATE

First Justice Sydney Hanlon, Judge Timothy Gailey, and Judge James Coffey continued to sit in the dedicated domestic violence session at Dorchester District Court Monday through Friday. Assistant district attorneys, probation officers, police officers, advocates, and restraining order office personnel continued to provide specialized services in this session to victims and defendants.

Staff from the Judicial Oversight Demonstration Initiative participated in several training opportunities funded through the project. In June, domestic violence detectives, police advocates, and probation officers participated in a training on Child Abuse Identification and Investigation put together by Det. Bernie McCrevan of Area B2. Presenters included an impressive array of medical experts from Boston area hospitals, as well as representatives from the Department of Social Services, the Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center, and the Suffolk County

District Attorney's Office.

A group of 19 JODI representatives, including 9 probation staff, 5 batterer intervention group facilitators, 2 defense attorneys, 1 judge, and 2 community resource specialists attended a training by Men Stopping Violence in Atlanta, GA. Ulester Douglas and Sulaiman Nurredin of Men Stopping Violence (MSV) designed and conducted the training which focused on how to work effectively with African American men who use violence in intimate partner relationships. The training dealt with issues of cultural competence and how to work effectively across cultural lines. Participants were inspired by the work being done at MSV and felt there was a lot of potential to apply some of the facets of their work to our work here in Dorchester.

Five members of JODI partner agencies attended the National Network on Behalf of Battered Immigrant Women Annual Meeting in Miami. Sau Yip of the Asian

Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Cristie Menager of the Association of Haitian Women in Boston, Marie Pierre Victor of Codman Square Health Center, Mercedes Tompkins of the Dorchester Community Roundtable, and Leslie Martinez from the Clerk Magistrate's Office at Dorchester District Court all reported that the conference was very informative and helpful.

Dee Kennedy, the JODI Project Director presented along with the Alan Israel, the Project Director from Washtenaw County (1 of the other 3 JODI sites) presented on "Lessons Learned from JODI" at the National Institute of Justice Annual Conference in Washington, DC in July. Ms. Kennedy also attended a quarterly JODI Project Directors meeting in Washtenaw County. She had an opportunity to visit various components of that project (a shelter, the courthouse, probation, and the district attorney's office), while at that meeting.